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Newburn Urban District Council
(County of Northumberland)

ANNUAL
REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health
and
Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1946



PELAW-ON-TYNE:
Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works

1947

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PELAW-ON-TYNE:
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Officers of the Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

GUY B. PICTON, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN CORNEY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.J. Board.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

ANTHONY ANDERSON, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.J. Board.

(Resigned November, 1946)

Senior Health Visitor :

Mrs. L. E. SANDILANDS, Health Visitor's Cert. R.S.I.,
S.R.N., S.C.M.

Additional Health Visitor :

Miss M. H. SMITH, Health Visitor's Cert. R.S.I.,
S.R.N., R.F.N.

Clerks :

Mrs. I. KEATING.

Miss L. SNAITH.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health *for the Year ended December 31st, 1946*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Newburn Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to submit my Fifth Annual Report for the year 1946 on the work of the Health Department, in accordance with Circular 13/47 issued by the Ministry of Health.

The General Health of the district has been exceptionally good. We have had no outbreak of any great severity during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

This has been very slight. There were only 11 cases.

SCARLET FEVER.

This was slight also, there being 17 cases for the year.

WHOOPING COUGH.

We had 63 cases of a mild type, but there was one death. In this case the child had been delicate from birth.

MEASLES.

We had a slight outbreak of Measles, which was still going on at the commencement of 1947—52 cases for the year.

TYPHOID OR DYSENTERY.

There were no cases of either reported.

IMMUNISATION.

This is still being carried out regularly at the different schools and also at the Welfare Clinics. The mothers respond very well about having their children immunised.

ANTENATAL.

I think this has been a record year and I am glad to say many people attend the Clinics. Dr. Hart, instead of seeing the patients at Dilston Hall Maternity Home, now attends every week at our Antenatal Clinic on a Monday from 9.30 a.m. This has been a great help to our expectant mothers and saves them a journey to Dilston.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There were 20 illegitimate births during the year.

HOME VISITS.

The Health Visitors made a total of 2,024 visits.

SCABIES.

There have been few cases this year.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES.

We had one or two under our care for some time, and both Mr. Corney and Mr. Whittaker, of the N.S.P.C.C., have given me great help, and we have all the cases under control.

SECTION A.

Statistical Summary and Social
Conditions

Particulars of District.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,649
Registrar General's estimate of population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,290
Number of inhabited houses, according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,861
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£418
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£108,011

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
Live Births (legitimate) ...	194	215	409
„ „ (illegitimate) ...	9	11	20
Still Births ...	4	4	8
Deaths... ..	124	118	242
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	21·14
Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	18·3
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	11·43

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	53·63
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	55·74
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	NIL

Deaths.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	44
„ „ Measles (all ages)	NIL
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Causes of Death in Newburn Area, 1946.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
ALL CAUSES	124	118	242
		Males.	Females.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	1
3. Scarlet Fever
4. Whooping Cough	1
5. Diphtheria
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	7
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	1
9. Influenza	3	2
10. Measles
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis
13. Cancer..	23	21
14. Diabetes	1
15. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	16	16
16. Heart Disease	34	31
17. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	4
18. Bronchitis	6	6
19. Pneumonia	3	5
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1
22. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2
23. Appendicitis
24. Other Digestive Diseases	1	..
25. Nephritis	3	1
26. Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis
27. Other Maternal Causes
28. Premature Birth	2	3
29. Congenital Malformation Birth Infant ; Disease	1	8
30. Suicide	1	..
31. Road Traffic Accident	2	..
32. Other Violent Causes	6	..
33. All Other Causes	7	4

The main causes of death are again due to Cancer and Heart Disease.

SECTION B.

1. *Public Health Officials* (see page 2).
2. (a) Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.
(b) Ambulance Services.—This service remains the same as last year.
(c) Nursing in the Home.—Apart from a scheme for intensive nursing where necessary in maternity cases, the Home Nursing is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
(d) The only treatment centre controlled by this authority is the Sun-ray Clinic.
(e) There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Lemington, administered by the West Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which Board this Council is a constituent member.

3. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

No changes have been made during the year.

SECTIONS C, D, and E.

See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The following tables gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

Number of Cases—Civilians.

DISEASE	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 and over		Age unknown		TOTAL		Hos-pital	Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	2	6	1	1	3	1	3	..	1	..	..	9	10	17	..	
Whooping Cough	..	4	8	13	8	17	4	7	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	42	..	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	
Measles	..	3	4	7	6	5	9	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	32	..	..
Diphtheria..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	3	8	11	..
DISEASE	0—		5—		15—		45—		65 and over		Age unknown		TOTAL		Hos-pital						
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.							
Acute Pneumonia	
Dysentery	
Smallpox	
Ac. En. Lethargica	
Enteric or Typhoid	
Paratyphoid	
Erysipelas	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	
Oph. Neonatorum	1	..	
Malaria	

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 37 new cases have been notified, 28 pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary.

The following table shows the age distribution of the 37 new cases and of the deaths of persons certified to be due to Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis, 1946.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
1-5 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5-15... ..	2	2	2	1	...	...	...	1
15-25... ..	4	3	3	...	1	...	1	...
25-35... ..	3	4	...	...	1	3	...	...
35-45... ..	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
45-55... ..	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	...
55-65... ..	2	3	...	...	1	2	...	...
65 and over ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	16	12	7	2	5	7	2	2

GUY B. PICTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector (JOHN CORNEY) *for the Year ended December 31st, 1946*

To Dr. GUY B. PICTON, M.B., B.S.

SIR,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1946.

The appointment of Mr. Anderson in March, 1946, as Additional Inspector made it possible to overtake some of the arrears of work which had accumulated whilst I was without assistance. It is to be regretted that Mr. Anderson stayed with us only until November, as he was an enthusiastic and capable Inspector.

HOUSING.

More progress in getting repairs carried out was made than in 1945, but until a greater supply of material is available it will not be possible to keep pace with ordinary deterioration of property, let alone overtake the neglect enforced by the war.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the district by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., and has at all times been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

All the houses in the area, with the exception of 13, have pipe supplies, the occupants of these 13 houses drawing their supply from stand-pipes.

During the year an attempt was made to have internal water supply provided in some houses of Clearance Area standard. Four supplies have been completed.

Three samples of water were submitted for examination and proved to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major changes have been made in the drainage or sewerage system during the year except where necessary in connection with development of new housing estates.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the close of the year there were 6,236 water closets, 23 pail closets, and 41 privies in use in this district.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

1. *Number and Nature of Inspections.*

PREMISES.							VISITS.
Visits under overcrowding provisions, Housing Act, 1936...							147
Visits and re-visits under the Public Health Acts and							
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,063
Shops and Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	222
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tents, Vans, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Refuse Receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
							<hr/> 1,747
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ <i>re</i> Disinfection (T.B. Cases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ <i>re</i> Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
							<hr/> 44
Visits <i>re</i> Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ <i>re</i> Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
„ <i>re</i> Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Visits <i>re</i> Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ <i>re</i> Tenancy of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ <i>re</i> Inspection of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
							<hr/> 409
TOTAL VISITS ...							<hr/> 2,200

2. (a) *Statutory Notices.*

Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ 45, Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ 46, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ 43, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ 44, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ 47, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ 83, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ 75, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ 93, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/> 31

(b) *Places of Public Entertainment.*

In accordance with Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health, the four cinemas in the district have been periodically visited, and conditions found to be generally satisfactory.

2. (c) *Meat and Food Inspection.*

Owing to centralised slaughtering of cattle, meat inspection is carried out only periodically at butchers' shops.

The following foods have been condemned and surrendered :—

Mutton	...	...	72 lb.	Tomatoes	...	...	3 cans
Beef	...	...	22 lb.	Plums and Pears	...	...	2 cans
Evaporated Milk	...	...	620 cans	Cheese	...	...	2 lb.
Dried Milk	...	...	29 cans	Raisins	...	...	8 lb.
Meat Roll	...	...	15 cans	Sultanas	...	...	20 lb.
Salmon	...	...	15 cans	Oatmeal	...	...	5½ lb.
Pilchards	...	...	7 cans	Split Peas	...	...	1 lb.
Peas and Beans	...	...	91 cans	Sausage	...	...	29 lb.
Sardines and Pilchards	...	...	42 cans	Cake Mixture	...	...	7 pkts.
Meat and Vegetables	...	...	18 cans	Jam	...	...	3 jars
Tongue	...	...	1 can	Lemon Cheese	...	...	1 jar
Soup	...	...	5 cans	Fish Cakes	...	...	11

MILK SUPPLY.

The following statement shows the number and result of examinations carried out :—

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Of the 77 samples produced in the district 62, or 80·5 per cent. were satisfactory.

Of the 47 samples produced outside the district 42, or 89·4 per cent., were satisfactory.

Tubercle Bacilli.

Thirty samples were submitted for examination for the presence of B. Tubercle, 5 samples were found to be positive.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year two further maintenance treatments for destruction of rats in sewers were carried out, and in addition to routine treatment of refuse tips and Council-owned property, an intensive campaign for destruction of rats on private property was completed.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

D.D.T. powder and liquid were again used successfully in the eradication of bed-bugs. In co-operation with the Housing Manager we arranged for applicants for Council Houses, whose tenancy was deferred for verminous conditions, to be supplied with D.D.T. and spray and instructed in the best method of ridding their premises of vermin.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

The scheme of Public Health Propaganda was continued throughout the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

During the year the number of patients carried was 2,815, of which 78 were accidents.

Maintenance of the three vehicles was a difficult problem and it was frequently necessary for the Council's mechanic to improvise some spare part which was unobtainable from the manufacturers.

JOHN CORNEY,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

September, 1947.

